

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS NATO PO
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION: TRAINING OFFERS

REF: A) STATE 34978 (DTG 160123Z FEB 77, B) USNATO 957
(DTG 230920Z FEB 77)

SUMMARY: UTILITY OF OFFERS OF TRAINING FOR PORTUGUESE FORCE
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS RELATED TO HIGH COSTS TO PORTUGUESE,
EXTENSIVE U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING ALREADY UNDERWAY,
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AND RELEVANCE OF TRAINING TO PORTUGAL'S NEEDS. END SUMMARY

1. TRAINING OFFERS TO ARMED FORCES: IN RESPONSE TO US
BILATERAL APPROACHES ON PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION,
SEVERAL OF THE ALLIES HAVE OFFERED TRAINING OF VARIOUS
SORTS (REF A). THE EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL REPRESENTED BY
THESE OFFERS WILL BE APPRECIATED. HOWEVER, THE UTILITY

OF OUTSIDE TRAINING IS LIMITED BY THE FACTORS DESCRIBED
BELOW.

2. HIGH COSTS FOR PORTUGAL: DUE TO A PROVISION OF
PORTUGUESE LAW, THE GOP HAS TO PAY FULL PER DIEM FOR PERSONNEL
ON TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS OUTSIDE PORTUGAL. THE COSTS ARE HIGH
AND MUST BE PAID EVEN WHEN THE HOST COUNTRY PROVIDES PER DIEM.
IN FY 76 AND 77, THE COSTS TO PORTUGAL FOR FOREIGN TRAINING
PER DIEM WILL BE OVER \$850,000. WITH EXPENDITURES THIS HIGH,
THE HARD PRESSED MILITARY BUDGET CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THE
MOST COST EFFECTIVE TRAINING.

3. TRAINING ALREADY UNDERWAY: THE U.S. WILL HAVE TRAINED
124 STUDENTS OUTSIDE PORTUGAL DURING FY 76 AND 77 AND THIRD
COUNTRIES WILL ACCOUNT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 156. THE US PROGRAM,
INCLUDING IN-COUNTRY TRAINING, WILL INCREASE BY A FACTOR OF
THREE IN FY 78.

4. TRAINING MUST BE RELEVANT: TRAINING NOT DIRECTLY RELATED
TO SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT OR DOCTRINE IS OF LIMITED UTILITY. FOR
EXAMPLE, GENERALIZED VISITS TO UNITS ARE BECOMING LESS
AND LESS RELEVANT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE USEFUL WHEN THE
PORTUGUESE LACKED EXPOSURE TO DEMOCRATIC ARMIES. ON THE
OTHER HAND, FRENCH UNDERGRADUATE HELICOPTER FLIGHT TRAINING
IS RELEVANT TO THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE, WHICH HAS ONLY
FRENCH HELOS.

5. EQUIPMENT IS PRIORITY NEED: AS USNATO POINTED OUT
IN REF (B), VALUABLE AS TRAINING IS FOR THE PORTUGUESE
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MILITARY, PRIORITY NEED IS MODERN EQUIPMENT.
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